THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

However, in Question No. 2377 dated 23.12.2008 by the Hon'ble Member Shri Nandi Yellaiah wherein it was asked that whether a request had been received for 100 per cent income tax exemption under sub section 2(iii) of clause (a) of the Section 80G of the Income Tax Act to the Andhra Pradesh Sports Development Fund and its latest status, it was replied by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance that the request was examined and not found acceptable.

Sixth pay commission benefits for Physiotherapists

491. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that physiotherapists have been kept below in comparison to para-veterinary and nursing scales and have been clubbed with paramedical and had been given a mere replacement scale by the sixth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to give physiotherapists rational and upgraded scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Physiotherapists are part of the common category of Para/Medical staff and as such, Sixth Pay Commission has treated them as a part of this common category. Sixth Pay Commission has granted normal replacement scales to most categories of posts, including Physiotherapists. However, pay scales of certain categories like Nurses have been upgraded as a result of conscious recommendations given by the Commission on account of arduous nature of their duties and to ensure better delivery mechanisms for the citizens. In the case of some categories of Para Veterinarians, Pay Commission has granted upgraded pay scales.

(c) Since the revised pay scales of all these categories are based on the specific recommendations of the Pay Commission, no change is called for.

Problems of farmers of Maharashtra

†492. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 3392 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th August and state:

(a) whether a task force has been established to solve the problems of those farmers of Maharashtra who borrow loans from private money lenders and who are not covered under loan relief scheme;

(b) if so, the findings of the investigation made by this task force;

(c) the future action proposed by the task force and the status of implementation thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether the suggestions of the task force would be implemented in other States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) In pursuance to the announcement made in this regard in the Budget Speech for the year 2009-10, the Ministry of Agriculture has constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Chairman, NABARD to look into the issue of a large number of farmers, who had taken loans from private money lenders, not being covered under the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS). The Task Force is to submit its report by 31 March, 2010.

Accounts of Indian citizens in Liechentenstein Bank

493. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 363 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st October, 2008 and to state:

(a) whether Government pursued with the German authorities the process of securing details of 'secret' accounts held by Indian citizens in Liechentenstein banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating action taken in pursuant thereof up-to-date;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the current status of the action envisaging disclosure by banks in Switzerland of deposits suspected to be comprising Black Money flowing from Indian depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The German tax authorities have provided to the Indian Government information available with them regarding accounts concerning Indian nationals with the LGT Bank of Liechtenstein. The information has been provided by the German authorities under the Article concerning exchange of information of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Germany read with the Protocol thereto. The disclosure of the same is governed by the confidentiality provision of the said Article of the DTAA.

The information, so obtained, was immediately forwarded to the concerned income-tax authorities for initiating necessary action. Assessments have been reopened under the Income-tax Act, 1961 in all these cases. In appropriate cases, assessments have also been reopened under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957.

(d) The first round of negotiation between India and Switzerland for revision of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement-was held at Berne from 10th November, 2009 to 12th November, 2009.

Mechanism to monitor the line of funds

†494. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.